

Thaw
346CLASSIFICATION ~~SECRET~~
East GermanyCOUNTRY 25X1 REPORT TOPIC Finsterwalde Airfield25X1 EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 25X1DATE OBTAINED TE PREPARED 1 December 1953REFERENCES 25X1PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) REMARKS

25X1

25X1

1. The following observations were made at Finsterwalde airfield between 20 and 31 October 1953:

20 to 26 October. Only one biplane was observed aloft on one day. There was bad weather and poor visibility.

27 October. Between 8 a.m. and noon, individual take-offs and local flights were made by Il-10s at intervals of 5 to 8 minutes. There was a 3/10 overcast.

28 October. During the morning, local individual flights were made. There was a 4/10 overcast and visibility of 10 km.

29 October. No aircraft were observed aloft. It rained and there was poor visibility.

30 October. Between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., flying was practiced by a biplane. There was a low ceiling and drizzle. Between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., a rotary searchlight flashed up at intervals. No air activity was observed.

31 October. No activity was observed at the field and no aircraft were parked on the landing field. The hangars were closed. 1

2. Some soldiers were working near several large heaps of earth in a small wood south of Schacksdorfer Strasse, in the northern section of the field. No details could be observed as the road along the northern edge of the field was blocked and as sentries were patrolling in the wood. South of the wood there was a watchtower which was occupied by a sentry equipped with field glasses. 2

25X1

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

SECRET

25X1

25X1

25X1

4. At 11 a.m. on 22 October, no air activity was observed at the field. The doors of some hangars were open, but no aircraft were observed in these hangars. At 11:30 a.m., a MiG-15 crossed over the field. At 12:50 p.m., a Yak-11 landed, coming from the west. No additional air activity was observed up to 8 p.m. A rotary searchlight near the Adcock DF station was put in operation at 8:10 p.m. 1

5. The ammunition dump in the northern section of the field was surrounded by two fences. There were two watchtowers each occupied by a soldier and guarded by dogs. Five 37-mm AA guns were observed in the AA gun emplacement in the northwestern corner of the field. An 8-seater personnel carrier was parked near the PKV-45 DF station in the western flying lane. The operating personnel of the DF station were quartered in a low wooden building. There were also the superstructures of two radio trucks, one of them mounting a searchlight. Recently excavated ditches were observed in the northern section of the field, between the ammunition dump and triangulation point 113.8 north of the fence. 2

6. On 22 October, object 1 on Forst Strasse in Finsterwalde was occupied by Soviet Air Force troops. There was traffic by officers, female air force troops and EM. A sentry was posted at the barrier at the entrance. The Viktoria Hotel on Sonnenwalder Strasse and the warehouse on Kirchhainer Strasse were not occupied. No sentries were observed at the quartering buildings on Geschwister Scholl Strasse the doors of which were closed. Trucks were parked on both sides of the road. 4

3

8. Between 29 October and 6 November, little air activity was observed at the field. Between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on 3 November, several ground attack aircraft made local flights. There were no clouds. flying was practiced by aircraft from another airfield. Almost every night, a rotary searchlight was in operation. On 4 November, about 18 ground attack aircraft were counted north of the flight control building. Sedan occupied by a Soviet lieutenant colonel, allegedly the commander of the field, was observed. 3

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

9. The PKV-45 DF station was still observed in the western flying lane. Almost all high buildings, smokestacks and churches in Finsterwalde, Nehesdorf and Schacksdorf, as well as the houses on the road leading from Nehesdorf to the southeast and the houses in the flying lane were provided with obstacle lights. No boundary lights were available. [REDACTED] flare path at the field. 1

25X1

1. [REDACTED] Comment. Finsterwalde airfield is occupied by a ground attack regiment equipped with about 40 Il-10s.

2. [REDACTED] Comment. Ditches had been previously dug out north of the Nehesdorf-Schacksdorf road. [REDACTED]

25X1

4. [REDACTED] Comment. Object No 1 is believed to be occupied by the headquarters of the ground attack corps. According to a previous report, Viktoria Hotel was released by the Soviets on 1 September 1952 and Hotel Lindenhof (Object No 2) was occupied instead. [REDACTED]

5. [REDACTED] Comment. The statements on the location of the ammunition camp, the AA gun emplacement and the PKV-45 DF station are correct.

SECRET